

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anti-counterfeiting method, comprising:
creating a first data set having data in a first
data arrangement;

5 modifying the data within said first data set to
create a second data arrangement for said first data
set;

10 determining whether data on an object presented
for validation is consistent with the data of the
first or second data arrangement for said first data
set; and

15 if the data on said object presented for
validation is determined to be consistent with the
data of the first or second data arrangement for said
first data set, accepting said object presented for
validation, else rejecting said object presented for
validation.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising,
providing at least one object with said first data set.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data within
said first data set is modified every time an object is
provided with said first data set.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein an attribute of
the data within said first data set is modified every time
an object is provided with said first data set.

5. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the first data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether another object having the first data set in the first data arrangement has previously been accepted;

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that another object having the first data set in the first data arrangement has previously been accepted;

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the second data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether another object having the first data set in the second data arrangement has previously been accepted; and

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that another object having the first data set in the second data arrangement has previously been accepted.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one object includes a memory, and wherein providing at least one object with said first data set comprises transferring the first data set to said memory.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said at least one object further comprises a microprocessor, the

microprocessor modifying the data within the first data set transferred to said memory to create a plurality of data arrangements for the first data set transferred to said memory, said memory storing at least one of said plurality of data arrangements.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one object further comprises a clock, said microprocessor accessing the clock to modify the first data set transferred to said memory according to a time interval.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising, providing a plurality of objects with said first data set, and wherein the data within said first data set is modified after a preset number of the plurality of objects have been provided with said first data set.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the first data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether a preset number of other objects having the first data set in the first data arrangement have previously been accepted;

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that a preset number of other objects having the first data set in the first data arrangement have

previously been accepted;

15 if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the second data arrangement for said first data set:

20 determining whether a preset number of other objects having the first data set in the second data arrangement have previously been accepted; and

25 rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that a preset number of other objects having the first data set in the second data arrangement have previously been accepted.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising, maintaining a record of the first and second data arrangements for said first data set.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said first data set comprises a first bitmap of image data representative of a first image, the first bitmap of image data including a first plurality of pixels, and wherein modifying the data within said first data set comprises changing at
5 least one attribute of at least one of said first plurality of pixels.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the data on said object presented for validation comprises a second bitmap of image data representative of a second image, the second

5 bitmap of image data including a second plurality of pixels.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein determining whether data on an object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data arrangement for said first data set comprises:

5 determining whether each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is consistent with a corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the first data arrangement;

10 if each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is determined to be consistent with the corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the first data arrangement, accepting said object presented for validation, else:

15 determining whether each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is consistent with a corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the second data arrangement; and

20 if each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is determined to be consistent with the corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the second data arrangement, accepting said object presented for validation, else rejecting said object presented for validation.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein determining whether data on an object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data

arrangement for said first data set comprises:

- 5 calculating a first reference sum for the first plurality of pixels in the first data arrangement;
 calculating a second reference sum for said second plurality of pixels;
 determining whether said second reference sum is
10 consistent with said first reference sum;
 if the second reference sum is determined to be consistent with the first reference sum, accepting said object presented for validation, else:
 calculating a third reference sum for the
15 first plurality of pixels in the second data arrangement;
 determining whether said second reference sum is consistent with said third reference sum;
 and
20 if the second reference sum is determined to be consistent with the third reference sum, accepting said object presented for validation, else rejecting said object presented for validation.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising, displaying said first and second images.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein said first data arrangement has a first time stamp associated therewith, wherein said second data arrangement has a second time stamp associated therewith, wherein said data on said
5 object presented for validation has a third time stamp

associated therewith, and wherein determining whether data on an object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data arrangement for said first data set comprises:

10 determining whether the third time stamp is consistent with the first or second time stamp;

 if the third time stamp is determined to be consistent with the first time stamp, rejecting said object presented for validation unless it is
15 determined that the data on said object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first data arrangement for said first data set;

 if the third time stamp is determined to be consistent with the second time stamp, rejecting said
20 object presented for validation unless it is determined that the data on said object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the second data arrangement for said first data set; and

 if the third time stamp is not determined to be
25 consistent with the first or second time stamp, rejecting said object presented for validation.

18. An anti-counterfeiting system, comprising:

 a first data set having data in a first data arrangement, the data within said first data set being modifiable to create a second data arrangement
5 for said first data set;

 data reading apparatus, said data reading apparatus reading data on an object; and

 a data processing system operatively associated

with said data reading apparatus, the data processing
10 system receiving the data on said object from said
data reading apparatus, the data processing system
determining whether the data on said object is
consistent with the data of the first or second data
arrangements for said first data set, said object
15 being accepted if said data processing system
determines that the data on said object is consistent
with the data of the first or second data arrangement
for said first data set, said object being rejected
if said data processing system does not determine
20 that the data on said object is consistent with the
data of the first or second data arrangement for said
first data set.

19. The anti-counterfeiting system of claim 18,
further comprising at least one object, said at least one
object comprising a memory, said first data set being
transferrable to the memory of said at least one object.

20. An anti-counterfeiting system, comprising:
a data processing system for modifying data
within a computer readable storage device having a
first data arrangement to create a second data
5 arrangement for said data, for determining whether
data on an object is consistent with the data of the
first or second data arrangement, and for accepting
said object if the data on said object is determined
to be consistent with the data of the first or second
10 data arrangement, else for rejecting said object.